The Urban Sanitary District of Mossley.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

February 1st, 1904.

To The CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting you with my Eighth Annual Report.

The number of births registered during the year was 255—130 males and 125 females, being again a decrease, as the number in 1902 was 279. The number of deaths registered was 205—99 males and 106 females, being an increase on 1902, which was 182.

The natural increase at the end of the year, being the excess of births above deaths was 50, as compared with 97 in 1902, and 55 in 1901. There were 11 deaths from zymotic diseases, 2 less than in the former year. The largest number of deaths from one disease was 6 from Whooping Cough, cases of which have occurred in different parts of the town during the greater part of the year. This gives us a zymotic death rate of ·81 per 1,000 population, and 53·6 per 1,000 deaths. Of these cases, 6 died from Whooping Cough, 2 from Enteric Fever, 1 from Diarrhœa, 1 from Puerperal Fever, and 1 from Erysipelas.

The birth rate for the year was 18·8 per 1,000 population, and the number of illegitimate births registered was 7, as compared with 12 in the previous year. The general death rate was 15·1 per 1,000 population. The number of infants who died under 12 months of age was 27, as compared with 30 in 1902, 36 in 1901, and 44 in 1900. The chief causes of death in these cases were Pneumonia and Whooping Cough.

With regard to the sanitary work done during the year, there were 41 cases of infectious diseases notified :—10 between 1 and 5 years, 17 between 5 and 15 years, 4 between 15 and 25 years, 9 between 25 and 65 years, and 1 above 65 years. There were 10 cases in Lancashire Ward, 22 in Cheshire Ward, and 9 in Yorkshire Ward. This is again a decrease, as there were 64 cases in 1902, and 237 in 1901.

The largest number of cases of any one disease was 18 of Scarlet Fever, which occurred in March, August, and October, and next, 11 cases of Diphtheria, isolated cases of which occurred during the whole year.

The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1899, has been in force since July 1st, 1899. The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, and the Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, are also in force.

The following table shows the number of notified cases and of deaths from the principal zymotic diseases :—

	Notified Cases.	Deaths.
Smallpox	3	0
Diphtheria	11	0
Erysipelas	3	1
Scarlet Fever	18	0
Enteric Fever	6	2
Whooping Cough	0	6

The zymotic death rate was ·81 per 1,000 population, and 53·6 per 1,000 deaths, as compared with ·9, and 71·4 in 1902, again a decrease.

I visited the houses in all cases where infectious disease was notified, disinfectants were supplied, printed instructions to prevent the spread of the disease left, and at the termination of the sickness, the houses were again visited by the Sanitary Inspector, the sick rooms disinfected, and in many cases the bedding, etc., was removed and disinfected in the Delépine Thresh Disinfector.

The Committee did not join the scheme for a Joint Infectious Hospital with the neighbouring borough, but have kept on the May Hill Hospital, in which we have accommodation for eight cases of Smallpox.

With regard to Scarlet Fever, of which there were eighteen cases notified during the year, as compared with twenty-six in 1902, the type was a very mild one and caused no deaths. The cases occurred in the months of March, August, and October, with odd cases during the other months of the year, but at no time did it assume an epidemic form, and the cases were scattered all over the district.

There were three cases of Smallpox and no deaths. Two occurred in February. The infection was brought to the town by a tramp, who stayed at the lodging house in Mill Street, and went early next morning to apply for relief at Ashton, where it was found he was suffering from Smallpox. On receiving notice of this case, I immediately visited the house, had the the bedding used by the patient disinfected and all the rooms of the house, and means were taken to prevent the other lodgers going to other houses. As a result of this case two lodgers caught Smallpox, and were removed to May Hill. The landlady, and later all the other lodgers were vaccinated, and no more cases occurred in the house; and a woman and her family, who had helped in the house, were also vaccinated. During the quarantine period all these people were fed by the Committee. In May another case occurred in a man who had come to the town from Rochdale, in which town he had contracted the disease. Similar precautions were taken in this case. Special reports on these cases were made by me to the Committee, the County Council, and the Local Government Board.

There were eleven cases of Diphtheria, but no deaths, compared with fourteen cases and three deaths in 1902, and sixty-seven cases and eleven deaths in 1901. These were all sporadic cases occurring during the whole year, and scattered over the whole district. Diphtheritic Antitoxic Serum is supplied at the expense of the Corporation to all medical men attending these cases in the borough.

There were three cases of Erysipelas and one death.

There were six cases of Enteric Fever and two deaths, as compared with fifteen cases and one death in 1902.

In all cases where defective drains were found they were attended to immediately, and at every house, earthenware pots with air-tight lids were left, so that all excretions from the patients might be put in them and removed. These cases were scattered over the whole district, and there was no reason to suspect either the water or milk supply in any of them.

There have been no deaths reported from lead poisoning. The water supply is plentiful and good.

I have inspected and notified any insanitary conditions in the district which have come to my knowledge, and when necessary, notice has been given for the removal of the nuisance.

I have attended the meetings of the Health Committee, and have advised a matter concerning the public health.

Bakehouses, Slaughter Houses, Cowsheds, Lodging Houses, and Factories have bene visited, and where necessary, cleansing and limewashing have been done, and in the case of one underground bakehouse, alterations have been made to the satisfaction of the Committee. New fire escapes have been put in the Egmont, Brookbottom, Croft, Brunswick, and Albion Mills, and repairs to means of access made in the Spinning Company's, Egmont, Milton, and No. 1 and 2 Woodend Mills, and new closet arrangements made at No. 1 and 2 Woodend, Croft, and Spinning Company's, and two other mills are in hand at the present time.

Since the outbreak of Smallpox in one of the neighbouring towns, the keepers of all lodging houses have again been told to notify me immediately of any case of sickness which may occur in any of their lodgers.

At the Sewage Works the sewage is treated in septic tanks and filter beds, and the effluent is excellent.

I consider the health of the district very satisfactory, especially as regards Smallpox, so many cases of which have occurred in the neighbourhood.

I now give tables of Mortality, Birth and Death Rates, etc., as required by the Local Government Board.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN HEALEY, M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the Distkict.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.						
		Number.	Rate*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1895	14463	286	19·8	58	202·7	271	18·7				271	18·7
1896	14596	352	24·2	54	153·4	219	15·0				219	15·0
1897	14648	343	23·8	39	113·7	189	12·9				189	12·9
1898	14785	370	25·0	56	151·3	255	17·2				255	17·2
1899	14878	329	22·1	56	170·2	242	16·2				242	16·2
1900	15009	336	22·3	44	130·9	228	15·2			1	229	15·2
1901	13452	317	23·5	33	113·1	260	19·3			2	262	19·3
1902	13498	279	20·6	30	107·5	182	13·4	1		18	200	14·8
Averages for years 1895-1902	14416	326·5	22·6	46·2	142·8	230·7	15·9	1		7	233·3	16·1
1903	13570	255	18·8	27	105·9	187	13·8			18	205	15·1

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total population at all ages, 13,452. Number of inhabited houses, 3,040. Average number of persons per house, 4·4. At Census of 1901.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 3,929.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1903 and Previous Years.

Names of Localities.	Whole.				Cheshire Ward.				Lancashire Ward.				Yorkshire Ward.			
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year
1895	14463	286	271	58												
1896	14596	352	219	54												
1897	14648	343	189	39												
1898	14785	370	255	56												
1899	14878	329	242	56												
1900	15009	336	228	44												
1901	13452	317	262	36	4701		89	13	4629		102	11	4122		71	12
1902	13498	279	200	30	4726	118	72	13	4633	78	76	7	4139	83	52	10
Averages of years 1895-1902	14416	326·5	233·3	46·2	4713	118	80	13	4631	78	89	9	4130	83	61	11
1903	13570	255	205	27	4756	95	74	12	4656	84	68	9	4158	76	63	6

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1903.

Notifiable Diseases.	Cases notified in whole District.							Total cases notified in each Locality.			No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.	
	At all Ages.	Years.										
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	Cheshire Ward.	Lancashire Ward.	Yorkshire Ward.	Cheshire Ward.	Lancashire Ward.
Small-pox	3					3		2	1		2	1
Diphtheria	11		5	4	1	1		6	3	2		
Erysipelas.....	3					2	1	2	1			
Scarlet Fever	18		5	13				10	3	5		
Enteric Fever	6				3	3		2	2	2		
Totals.....	41		10	17	4	9	1	22	10	9	2	1

Isolation Hospital, May Hills, for Smallpox only.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1903.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at Subjoined Ages.							Deaths in or belonging to localities (at all ages)			Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	C.	L.	Y.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	16
Whooping-cough.....	6	4	2					1	1	4	
Croup	3		2	1					2	1	
Enteric Fever	2				2				2		
Epidemic Influenza...	1		1					1			
Diarrhœa	1						1		1		
Enteritis	7		2	1		1	3	3	1	3	
Puerperal Fever	1					1				1	
Erysipelas.....	1						1		1		
Other Septic Diseases	4				2	2			2	2	
Phthisis.....	14				4	10		8	4	2	
Other Tubercular Diseases	3	1	1	1					2	1	
Cancer Malignant Diseases	10					7	2	4	5	1	
Bronchitis.....	13	1	1	1		2	9	5	5	3	
Pneumonia	24	5	6		1	6	6	10	10	4	
Pleurisy.....	1					1		1			
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	1						1			
Premature Birth	2	2							1	1	
Heart Diseases.....	21				2	9	10	7	6	8	
Accidents.....	7	2	1			4		5		2	
Suicides.....	1					1			1		
All other causes	82	11		3	2	34	33	28	24	30	
All causes	205	27	16	7	12	78	65	74	68	63	

ANNUAL REPORT.

February 1st, 1904.

To The CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Gentlemen,

In the Sixth Annual Report, which I have the privilege of laying before you, it will be observed that the progress of sanitary improvements in your district has still been vigorous during the last twelve months.

The work arising from nuisances in connection with dwellings, such as damp and defective roofs, dirty houses defective water supplies, blocked drains in cellars and yards, privy and ashpit defects, and insanitary buildings, has occupied a great amount of my time.

These improvements have resulted in the abolition of a considerable number of defective stone drains and cesspools, the disconnection of slopstone pipes, and the drains, wherever possible, connected to the sewerage system of the borough.

The defective drains have been replaced by good earthenware pipes of sufficient size, laid to proper gradients, with cement joints; wherever these drains had to pass underneath a house, they were laid in 6 in. concrete, and, where necessary, connected to your sewers. A number of inspection chambers, etc., have been built to facilitate inspection, and at the same time, comply with your Bye-Laws; they have also been ventilated by means of vent pipes with cowls affixed, to prevent them becoming a nuisance. All slopstone pipes disconnected and trapped.

The number of particulars which have been dealt with are:

,, ,, feet of drainage required	3741
,, ,, traps required	174
,, ,, inspection chambers ...	9
,, ,, ventilating pipes	8
,, ,, new water closets	15
,, ,, new pail closets	9
The length of new troughing	1780
,, ,, new downspouting	460
Baths	4

The number of public schools disinfected, 1; houses, 72; rooms, 117; rooms cleaned, 255; the number of beddings disinfected by the New Delépine Thresh Machine, 21; including sheets, 30; blankets, 35; flock beds, 21; bed covers, 21; mattresses, 4; pillows, 36; carpets, 3; bed hangings, 6; total, 156 articles.

The work done by this department in the removal of house refuse is as follows:—Number of loads of ashes, 3,640; number of pails emptied, 58,612. The analysis of these pails is as follows:—Houses, 39,832; Mills 10,348; Slaughter houses, 1,716; Schools, 936; Workshops, 312; Fishmongers, 312; Gas Works, 156; total, 53,612.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

From the Medical Officer of Health's Report it will be observed a considerable amount of work has been done in connection with the provision of fire escapes and closet accommodation.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

I have inspected the slaughter houses in the Borough, and find that they are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition. The condition of the meat sold in the town appears to be of a satisfactory nature and free from disease.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASE OF ANIMALS ACT.

Under the above Act, I am pleased to state no disease has occurred in our district.

SEWERS AND SEWERAGE.

During the last year the whole length of the arterial sewer has been inspected, and wherever required, cleaned out. This attention has been more than usual, owing to the large amount of matter gaining access from the highways. The amount of new sewering completed is as follows :—

Sewer under Railway	130 feet.
Earnshaws Lane	424 ,,
Brookfields	650 ,,
George Street	300 ,,
Arundel Street	530 ,,
Total... ...	2034 ,,

At the Sewage Works the new filtering area for second contact has been completed, and has given very satisfactory results.

The amount treated during the last twelve months amounts to 199,438,800 gallons, an amount equal to nearly 90 days extra flow over that of last year, and over that of a normal flow.

The minimum flow occurred on January 9th, 15th, and 16th, February 8th, and April 19th, amounting to 239,516 gallons per 24 hours.

The maximum flow occurred on December 7th, when it amounted to 853,754 gallons per 24 hours.

I have made 461 analyses of the final effluent, the mean result of which is ·100 grains of oxygen absorbed per gallon. The lowest figures obtained at these works since they were constructed.

It is a strange action on behalf of the Rivers Authority, that since the completion of the filtering area for second contact they have never taken a sample, although they have visited the works, but I take it that they are satisfied with the effluent, at least, I hope so, and that we may continue to work at the low estimate of March, 1903.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

GEORGE H. TAYLOR.